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THE NEGRO IN THE WEST INDIES.

BY FREDERIC L. HOFFMAN.

To students of the race problem in the United States, the West Indies offer the most attractive field for observation and study in comparative race progress. For more than fifty years the negro has there enjoyed that political and social condition which, it is claimed by those who speak for the race, is in part denied him in this country. For more than fifty years the race has there had the most exceptional opportunities for progress and advancement in civilization, and for this reason, if for none other, the present condition of the race, morally and mentally as well as physically, is deserving of the most careful study on the part of those who have taken upon their shoulders the burden and responsibility of directing the course of the race in this country.

Familiar as many will be with the happy anticipations of those who, after years of faithful effort, saw first in 1834 the emancipation of the negro in the British West Indies, and subsequently, nearly thirty years later, the complete emancipation of the slaves in this country, they will find in the statistical tables which make up the main part of this paper much that will prove that all that freedom was expected to bring to these people has not come to pass. The lesson that these tables teach is that in the long run a race will work out its own salvation, for better or worse, and that the artificial methods by which the slow process of evolution is to be hastened are often, if not always, more of a hindrance than a help to the race, much as they may, and without question do, benefit a small number of individuals.

The paper is divided into five distinct parts, all of which will be considered separately and in the following order:—

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| A. Statistics of population. | D. Moral statistics. |
| B. The elements of the population. | E. Educational statistics. |
| C. Vital statistics. | |

The statistics of population are given in the following twelve tables, ten of which deal with islands of the British West Indies, and two of which deal with the Spanish West Indies. Those not thoroughly familiar with the history of these islands, with the conditions of the slave trade and the frequent prevalence of epidemics, should use caution in drawing conclusions from these tables for periods previous to the emancipation of the negroes in the British West Indies in 1834 and in the Spanish West Indies until very recent years.*

In addition to the total population the statistics of the white element are given, as well as the respective percentage of the same to the total population. Unfortunately, the data are very incomplete for most of the islands, and for some are not at all obtainable for recent periods, on account of the extensive amalgamation of the races.

TABLE I.

BERMUDA, 1791-1891.

	Total Population.	White.	Per Cent White.
1791	10,381	5,462	52.61
1824	10,612	4,648	43.79
1851	11,600	.. ..	.....
1871	12,121	.....	.....
1881	13,948	5,348	38.34
1891	15,013	5,690	37.90

TABLE II.

BAHAMAS, 1791-1891.

	Total Population.	White.	Per Cent White.
1791	4,241	2,000	47.16
1824	17,567	4,560	26.52
1839	23,048	.....	.....
1851	27,519	.....	.....
1861	35,287	.....	.....
1871	39,162	.....	.....
1881	43,521	.....	.....
1891	47,565	.....	.....

* Cuba, 1886 ; Porto Rico, March 23, 1873.

TABLE III.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1791-1891.

	1791.	1824.	1851.	1891.
Antigua and Barbadoes	40,398	36,860	34,500	34,964
St. Kitts.....	22,335	23,325	23,133	24,137
Dominica.....	16,203	20,622	23,000	28,211
Montserrat.....	11,300	7,447	7,800	10,083
Nevis.....	9,420	10,401	10,200	11,864
Virgin Island.....	10,200	7,479	6,600	5,287
Total.....	115,856	106,134	105,233	114,546
White.....	9,226	.....	.....	4,857
Per cent.....	7.96	.....	.....	4.24

TABLE IV.

BARBADOES, 1786-1891.

		Total Population.	White.	Per Cent White.
	1786	79,120	16,167	20.4
	1829	102,605	.....	.....
	1851	135,939	.....	.....
	1861	152,727	16,594	10.9
	1871	161,594	16,232	10.0
	1881	171,452	15,780	9.2
	1891	181,306	15,613	8.6

TABLE V.

TRINIDAD, 1824-1891.

		Total Population.	Native.	Per Cent Native.
	1824	41,479	.....	.....
	1861	84,438	46,936	55.6
	1871	109,638	56,692	51.7
	1881	153,128	69,307	45.3
	1891	200,028	86,941	43.5

TABLE VI.

BRITISH GUIANA, 1824-1891.

		Total Population.		Total Population.
	1824	80,945	1861	155,907
	1831	98,000	1871	193,491
	1841	98,154	1881	252,186
	1851	135,994	1891	278,328

TABLE VII.

JAMAICA, 1673-1891.

		Total Population.	White.	Per Cent White.
	1673	16,000	7,000	43.8
	1734	15,600	7,000	44.9
	1744	121,000	9,000	7.4
	1768	183,000	17,000	9.3
	1787	291,400	30,000	10.3
	1824	359,573	.....	.....
	1844	377,433	15,776	4.2
	1851	400,000	.....	.....
	1861	441,264	13,816	3.1
	1871	506,154	.....	.....
	1881	588,804	14,432	2.5
	1891	639,401	14,692	2.3

TABLE VIII.

BRITISH HONDURAS, 1823-1891.

		Total Population.	White.	Per Cent White.
	1823	5,791	.....	.....
	1845	9,809	395	4.1
	1848	14,000	.....	.....
	1861	26,635	.....	.....
	1871	24,710	.....	.....
	1891	31,471	409	1.3

TABLE IX.

CUBA, 1774-1890.

		Total Population.	White.	Per Cent White.
	1774	171,620	96,440	56.2
	1792	273,939	133,689	48.8
	1817	635,604	276,689	43.5
	1827	704,487	311,051	44.2
	1841	1,007,624	418,291	41.5
	1846	898,754	425,769	47.4
	1862	1,396,470	793,484	56.8
	1867	1,426,475	833,157	58.4
	1877	1,409,859	940,427	66.7
	1890	1,631,687	.....	.....

TABLE X.

PORTO RICO, 1802-1890.

	Total Population.	White.	Per Cent White.
1802	163,192	78,281	47.9
1812	183,014	85,662	46.8
1822	230,622	104,432	45.3
1835	319,161	180,783	56.6
1846	400,000	217,200	54.3
1866	464,000	262,000	56.5
1890	806,708	300,000	62.8

It has been my aim in these tables to present as complete returns as are obtainable, but it has not always been possible to give the earlier returns of population. For Jamaica and Cuba the period covered is the longest, while for Barbadoes the details of the population as regards color are the most complete. Most of the larger colonies publish decennially a comprehensive census, which are documents of the greatest value to the student of the social and moral condition of these islands. The most significant and highly important fact brought out here is the gradual decrease in the white population of the islands under British rule. In contrast the gain of the white on the colored element in the Spanish West Indies is none the less worthy of consideration. In Bermuda we find in 1891 a white population only 228 in excess of the same element one hundred years ago. In the Leeward Islands the white proportion of the population has decreased from 7.96 per cent in 1791 to 4.24 per cent in 1891, while in Barbadoes the percentage has fallen off from 20.4 in 1786 to 8.6 in 1891. In Trinidad the population is so hopelessly mixed that it is no longer possible to separate the white element. In 1824 there were 4096 whites, or about 10 per cent of the total population. In 1887 the white and mulatto element was estimated at 25,000, or about 12 per cent. In Trinidad as well as in British Guiana the population has in recent years been largely increased by immigration of coolies from the East Indies, as well as by

immigrants from Jamaica, Barbadoes, the Bahamas, etc. It is on this account that the native population has decreased in proportion to the total population, while at the same time increasing at the rate of nearly 100 per cent in 30 years. For Jamaica the statistics of population cover the entire period since the island has been a British possession.

The proportion of whites in this island has steadily decreased for the past century. Much to my regret, I have not been able to obtain information regarding the proportion of whites at the time of the emancipation of the blacks, for it is to this event in the political history of the West Indies, more than to anything else, that the decrease of the white element must be attributed. From 10.3 per cent in 1787 the proportion has decreased to 2.3 per cent in 1891,—that is, to almost nothing. In the colony of British Honduras the white element has always been an unimportant factor, the percentage in 1891 being only 1.3. Since there is no political franchise in this colony, it is probable that the prevailing conditions are made more tolerable than they otherwise would be.

In the Spanish West Indies — that is, in Cuba and Porto Rico — the conditions prevailing are exactly the contrary; and, instead of a predominating black, we meet here with the white element in numerical supremacy. Here not only do the whites hold their own as regards numerical supremacy, but the white element has been constantly gaining on the colored for the past century.

For Cuba I cannot give the exact proportion of whites for 1890, but it may be estimated at not less than 70 per cent, while in Porto Rico the present proportion is 62.8 per cent. To the student of race progress and race tendencies this peculiar condition is extremely interesting. To what cause must be attributed the fact here stated, that in one class of islands under British rule the proportion of whites is steadily decreasing, while in another class of islands under Spanish rule the contrary condition is met with? Is there any simi-

larity in this to the conditions in the United States? In this country, as well as in the Spanish West Indies, the negro has made a less proportionate increase in population than the white race, which increase in the proportion of whites has not been due to immigration, but solely to a larger excess of births over deaths; that is, solely to the natural increment of the population. In both countries, in contrast to the British West Indies, the white race made a determined struggle for numerical, political, as well as social supremacy, and in such a struggle the negro race, like all other races of a semi-civilized condition, has not been able to hold its own. For economic reasons, which it is not needful to state here, the struggle of the white race in the British West Indies was from the day of emancipation a hopeless one, and the consequent conditions as they exist at the present time are only what was expected fifty years ago. Such colonies as have encouraged coolie emigration, especially Trinidad and British Guiana, are today fairly prosperous, but there, as in the other islands, the negro rules, and rules to ruin.

The age and sex distribution of the population of these islands is stated in detail in the five tables which follow. It has not been possible in these tables to give the same information for all of the islands, but the data are sufficient for a comprehensive view of the subject, as well as for a study of the changes that have taken place in the elements of the population of these islands in recent years.

TABLE XI. SEX DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION, 1891.

	Male.	Female.
British Guiana.....	151,759	126,569
British Honduras.....	16,268	15,203
Trinidad.....	107,655	91,557
Jamaica.....	305,948	333,543
Barbadoes.....	81,105	101,201
Bermuda.....	7,036	7,977
Bahamas.....	25,555	25,010

TABLE XII.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION. PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE.

		Per Cent.		Per Cent.
	Jamaica.....	38.7	Trinidad	32.2
	Barbadoes.....	40.2	British Guiana....	31.1

TABLE XIII.

COMPARATIVE AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION. JAMAICA AND TRINIDAD.

	Jamaica.	Trinidad.
	<i>Per Cent.</i>	<i>Per Cent.</i>
0- 5	13.0	11.65
5-10	12.3	11.25
10-15	13.4	9.29
15-20	10.4	7.90
20-25	10.1	10.14
25-30	8.1	10.72
30-35	6.7	8.71
35-40	5.4	8.01
40-45	5.2	6.87
45-50	4.3	4.68
50-55	3.3	3.84
55-60	1.8	1.95
60-65	2.0	3.14
65 and over	4.0	1.85

TABLE XIV.

CHANGE IN THE AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION.
JAMAICA.

	1881.	1891.		1881.	1891.
	<i>Per Cent.</i>	<i>Per Cent.</i>		<i>Per Cent.</i>	<i>Per Cent.</i>
0- 5	13.1	13.0	40-45	4.8	5.2
5-10	13.0	12.3	45-50	3.5	4.3
10-15	12.3	13.4	50-55	2.8	3.3
15-20	9.6	10.4	55-60	1.7	1.8
20-25	10.1	10.1	60-65	2.2	2.0
25-30	8.8	8.1	65 and over	4.2	3.8
30-35	7.0	6.7	Under	1.3	0.2
35-40	5.6	5.4			

TABLE XV.
CHANGE IN THE AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION 15-45 YEARS.
JAMAICA, 1881-1891.

	1881.	1891.
Male.....	128,761	126,803
Female.....	136,952	158,379
Total.....	265,713	285,182

In the three colonies — British Guiana, British Honduras, and Trinidad — according to these tables, the males exceed the females, while in the four other islands the contrary condition is met with. We can only explain this on the ground that this is due to the large East India immigration, as well as to the immigration from the four colonies,—Jamaica, Barbadoes, the Bahamas, and the Bermudas. For, as will be observed, in the last-named islands the female population is in excess of the male element by a considerable per cent. The difference in the age distribution of the population of the two islands, Trinidad and Jamaica, is shown in table 13, while table 12 gives the population of the four islands at the age period 0-15,—that is, that period of age least affected by the disturbing factors of emigration or immigration. It will be seen that for the two islands which are largely affected by immigration, the proportion of young persons is considerably less than in the other islands, where the contrary cause — that is, emigration — is in active operation. But the fact is still more clearly demonstrated in tables XIV and XV, in which the changes in the age distribution of the population for the island of Jamaica are given for the two census periods 1881-1891, as well as the changes in the proportion of the sexes at the age period 15-45, that is, the period largely affected by emigration. The consequent effect of this abnormal condition of the population will be more fully shown later in connection with the tables of vital and

moral statistics of the island. During the years of the active operations on the proposed Panama Canal, large numbers of the population of Jamaica went to the isthmus, if for no other purpose than to fill the countless graves along the line of this unfortunate undertaking.

The vital statistics of these islands, as far as they have been deemed available for this paper, are given in the next series of ten tables. In race study no statistics are of greater value than the statistics of natality and mortality, for it is in them that the life history of a race can be traced, and the tendencies of a race be ascertained with an almost unerring degree of accuracy. It is extremely fortunate, therefore, that we have for at least three of these islands a complete and reliable record of vital statistics for a period of sufficient length. For Bermuda the statistics are none the less interesting, even if the population is rather small, for we have here the birth and death rates for both races, which is not the case for any of the other islands.

The registration reports of this island cover a period of 28 years, and are complete and comprehensive in details. For the Bahamas I can only give the returns for the year 1892, which have been furnished me in manuscript through the kindness of the present United States Consul. The death rate is not excessive, in view of the general unhealthy condition of the islands during the summer months. In Barbadoes the death rate is 10 per 1000 higher than in the Bahamas, while the birth rate is only 3 per 1000 greater. When the extreme density of the population of this island is taken into consideration, as well as the high birth rate, some other causes than local climatic or sanitary condition must be responsible for this excessive mortality. It is much to be regretted that no vital statistics should be collected in this island, which presents by far the most complex phases of negro life in the West Indies.

VITAL STATISTICS.

TABLE XVI. BERMUDA. BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

	1881.		1891.	
	White.	Colored.	White.	Colored.
Births per 1,000.....	39.60	37.79	40.25	38.84
Deaths “ “	20.94	25.12	25.66	19.21
Excess “ “	18.66	12.67	15.69	19.63

TABLE XVII. BAHAMAS, 1892.

	Per 1,000.
Births,	39.7
Deaths,	27.3
Excess of births over deaths,	12.4

TABLE XVIII. BARBADOES, 1891.

	Per 1,000.
Births,	42.61
Deaths,	37.26
Excess of births over deaths,	5.35

TABLE XIX. BIRTH AND DEATH RATE OF TRINIDAD, 1879-1893.

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.		Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1879	37.80	28.75	1887	33.59	26.73
1880	38.21	28.63	1888	35.62	30.48
1881	35.22	32.71	1889	34.68	29.56
1882	34.27	26.96	1890	32.00	26.97
1883	36.48	28.77	1891	35.60	27.82
1884	34.18	27.51	1892	34.70	26.69
1885	35.43	28.21	1893	34.90	27.60
1886	35.93	27.44			

TABLE XX. BIRTH AND DEATH RATE OF JAMAICA, 1882-1894.

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.		Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1881-82	35.7	20.4	1888-89	35.3	22.2
1882-83	41.5	23.0	1889-90	35.6	28.1
1883-84	36.1	22.7	1890-91	38.4	25.1
1884-85	37.3	22.6	1891-92	38.3	22.7
1885-86	36.1	23.3	1892-93	37.3	20.9
1886-87	34.7	24.2	1893-94	40.6	22.1
1887-88	39.1	22.3			

TABLE XXI. BIRTH AND DEATH RATE OF KINGSTON, JAMAICA, 1881-94.

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.		Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1880-81	30.6	38.8	1888-89	32.7	35.8
1882-83	31.9	34.0	1889-90	31.8	34.1
1884-85	34.9	34.5	1890-91	29.6	27.0
1885-86	31.7	37.8	1891-92	34.2	26.2
1886-87	30.6	39.4	1892-93	30.9	23.2
1887-88	36.6	32.2	1893-94	35.5	24.6

TABLE XXII.

MORTALITY FROM CONSUMPTION (PER 10,000), ISLAND OF JAMAICA AND KINGSTON PARISH, 1879-88.

	The Island.	Kingston Parish.
1879	17.3	51.3
1880	19.2	50.7
1881	18.4	46.4
1882	17.3	36.3
1883	18.6	39.6
1884	18.8	39.6
1885	16.8	38.6
1886	17.9	41.2
1887	16.4	36.5
1888	16.0	31.3
Average, 1879-88	17.5	43.5

TABLE XXIII.

MORTALITY STATISTICS OF CUBA, W. I. (RATE PER 1000 OF POPULATION.)

City or Village.		White.	Colored.
Bahia Honda.....	1879	46.41	170.29
Baracoa.....	1877-78	36.60	53.70
Baibarien.....	1878	28.50	34.50
Bejucal.....	1878	23.50	33.70
Cardenas.....	1861-63	51.12	73.38
	1876-78	36.52	52.11
Cienfuegos.....	1861-63	52.57	61.07
	1876-78	75.06	52.00
	1879	35.03	39.71
Guanabacoa.....	1874-79	35.50	49.00
Manzanillo.....	1876-78	34.90	47.14
Matanzas.....	1861-63	44.61	45.67
	1876-78	40.91	56.68
Moron.....	1878	30.91	47.94
Regla.....	1878	46.52	65.91
	1879	37.73	61.03
Sagua.....	1861-63	25.54	26.06
	1876-78	53.06	42.00
Sancti Spiritus.....	1876-78	35.33	42.20
San Jose de las Lajas.....	1877-78	27.30	40.70
Trinidad.....	1876-78	28.74	35.52

TABLE XXIV.
MORTALITY PER 1000 OF POPULATION AT SIX GROUPS OF AGES.

	Trinidad.	Jamaica.
0- 1	171.00	292.71
0- 5	74.84	88.37
5-10	12.86	9.83
10-20	7.28	5.30
20-40	13.63	14.80
40-60	34.21	22.88

TABLE XXV.
INFANT MORTALITY IN TRINIDAD ACCORDING TO NATIVITY (PER 1000 UNDER 1 YEAR).

	1889.	1890.
Native Population.....	199.75	185.83
East Indians.....	134.28	134.92

For Trinidad and Jamaica the statistics are complete and of exceptional value. In the former it is possible to observe the effect of climatic, economic, and social changes on the East Indian population in comparison with the general or colored population. In Jamaica it is possible to study the effect of urban life on the general death rate in a comprehensive manner. For Trinidad I have the reports for the period 1879-1893, and for Jamaica for the period 1887-1894. The mean death rate of Jamaica has decreased from 22.76 in 1881-1885 to 22.27 in 1891-1893; while in Trinidad the rate has fallen from 28.90 for the first period to 27.49 in the last period. This is in contrast to the tendency of the negro mortality in the United States, where the rate has constantly been on the increase for the past thirty years. The birth rate for Trinidad has fallen in the period 1879-1893, against a stationary condition in Jamaica. For Kingston the birth rates are below and the death rates in excess of the general rates for the whole island. There has been a constant decline in the Kingston death rate which is worthy of consideration, in view of the constant and excessive increase in the

death rate of the colored population of the cities of the United States. The mortality from consumption is very much higher in Kingston than in the island at large, but to a certain extent this is, no doubt, due to the want of proper medical attendance in the rural portions of the island. The effect of urban life in promoting an increase in the mortality from this disease is well shown in the constancy of the difference of the urban and rural rates. The decrease in the mortality from this cause is remarkable, in view of the constant increase in the mortality from consumption among the colored population of the United States.

The vital statistics of Cuba are not for recent periods, but of value, in that they afford some explanation in regard to the probable causes of the gain of the white population on the colored element during recent years. In Cuba, as well as in the United States, a remarkable difference is shown to exist in the death rates of the two races. There, as here, the negro rates largely exceed the rates of the white population, and in consequence the proportionate increase is in favor of the latter, since the colored race does not make up in a much larger fertility the loss sustained in the greater mortality. In Bermuda, as was shown, the birth rate of the white element is even in excess of that of the colored. It has been impossible for me to obtain information for more recent years. The table here given has been compiled from the report of the United States Yellow Fever Commission of 1879-80.

The effect of age on mortality is presented in table XXIV for Trinidad and Jamaica. It was shown in table XIX that the general death rate of Trinidad is in excess of the mortality of Jamaica; but on account of the difference in the age and sex distribution no comparison of gross death rates for these two islands is of any value,—in fact, misleading. In the table now under consideration it is shown that only for the two age periods 5-20 and 40-60 is the mortality of Trinidad in excess of the corresponding death rates for Jamaica. The infant mortality is less in Trinidad than in Jamaica, but

greater among the native population of the latter island than among the East India element.

The reports of the registrars of these islands are deserving of a careful study on the part of the student of the race problem and race tendencies in the United States, for no such comprehensive and valuable documents are in existence for any Southern State of this country.

A determined effort in this direction has been made in the States of Alabama and Florida, but the reports are still incomplete, and in consequence a discussion of the vital statistics of the negro in the United States must necessarily be incomplete, since only the statistics of the larger cities are available for this purpose.

The next five tables deal almost exclusively with the statistics of illegitimacy. It is of importance in connection with these tables to know the conjugal condition of the population of these islands. The data pertaining to this element of the population are given in table XXVI for the four islands,—Barbadoes, Trinidad, Jamaica, and the Bahamas. It is doubtful if similar conditions exist in any other civilized country. Or it may be asked if countries with conditions like these can claim recognition as being civilized. With percentages of unmarried persons from 69.2 to 81.8, the prevailing immorality as given in the tables of illegitimacy is easily understood. In happy contrast to this truly appalling condition in these islands, it may be stated that in the United States, in 1890, the percentage of the unmarried was 58.84 for the white and 62.51 for the colored population. It will be noted that the percentage of the unmarried is smallest in the Bahamas, where we also find the largest white element.

TABLE XXVI. CONJUGAL CONDITION OF THE POPULATION.

		Total Population.	Unmarried.	Per Cent of Total.
Barbadoes.....	1891	182,867	140,733	76.8
Trinidad*.....	1891	86,941	71,106	81.8
Jamaica.....	1891	639,491	495,786	77.5
Bahamas.....	1891	47,565	32,878	69.1

* Natives only.

TABLE XXVII. ILLEGITIMACY (PER 100 OF TOTAL BIRTHS). JAMAICA.

	The Island.	Kingston Parish.		The Island.	Kingston Parish.
1878-79	59.3	65.5	1886-87	59.8	59.7
1879-80	58.9	67.7	1887-88	60.6	60.1
1880-81	57.7	61.8	1888-89	60.5	58.7
1881-82	58.2	59.8	1889-90	61.7	62.3
1882-83	60.9	63.3	1890-91	60.7	60.8
1883-84	58.9	62.0	1891-92	60.6	62.0
1884-85	59.9	62.1	1892-93	60.1	62.1
1885-86	59.6	61.8	1893-94	60.6	61.1

TABLE XXVIII. ILLEGITIMACY IN TRINIDAD (PER 100 BIRTHS).

		Per Cent.		Per Cent.
	1882	75.5	1888	73.3
	1883	74.5	1889	72.8
	1884	74.9	1890†	61.9
	1885	74.6	1891†	61.6
	1886	74.9	1892†	60.3
	1887	72.6	1893†	61.2

† For the native population only.

TABLE XXIX. ILLEGITIMACY IN BERMUDA.

	White.		Per Cent.	Colored.		Per Cent.
	Total.	Illegitimate.		Total.	Illegitimate.	
1872-81	2,198	66	3.0	3,229	944	29.2
1882-91	2,026	41	2.0	3,466	866	24.8

INTER-MARRIAGES IN BERMUDA.

1874	11	1879	11	1884	2	1889	4
1875	11	1880	10	1885	1	1890	4
1876	21	1881	5	1886	6	1891	4
1877	6	1882	1	1887	3	1892	8
1878	10	1883	8	1888	8	1893	9
1874-78	59	1879-83	35	1884-88	20	1889-93	31

In table XXVII the statistics of illegitimacy are given for the island of Jamaica for the period 1878-1894 in per cent of the total number of births. The rate has remained almost

stationary since 1878, and is slightly in excess in Kingston over the rate for the island in general. The large decrease in the male population of this island, as shown in table XV, does not seem to have had much effect on the ratio of illegitimate births. The apparent increase from 1878-87 to 1888-94 is probably due more to a more careful system of registration at the present time. The illegitimate birth rate of Trinidad is unduly increased for the period 1882-89 through the coolie births, which are nearly all considered illegitimate. For the last four years I give the rates for the native population only, which, as will be seen, is almost exactly the same as the rate of Jamaica.

For Bermuda the statistics are of especial interest, in that the distinction of color is made, and a study in comparative moral conditions is possible. As will be seen, the white rate has fallen from 3 per cent in 1872-81 to 2 per cent in 1882-91, against a decrease in the colored rate from 29.2 per cent in the first period to 24.8 per cent in the second period. These are, perhaps, the most encouraging statistics that have been met with in this chapter of vice and immorality, but it remains to be seen whether this change will be permanent or only transient. In the cities of this country for which the data are available the condition is not encouraging, but, on the contrary, the rate of illegitimacy of the colored population of Washington, D. C., for 1893 is 27 per cent, against an average rate of 22.22 per cent for the period 1879-93. The white rate, however, has at the same time fallen from 3 per cent during the period 1879-93 to 2.8 per cent in 1893. For Mobile, Ala., the respective percentages are 3 per cent for the white and 26.6 for the colored population, for the period 1889-93. For Knoxville, Tenn., the reported rate during the same period is 3 per cent for the white and 22.3 for the colored population.

The table of statistics of mixed marriages for the Bermuda Islands is interesting and valuable, and more so if comparison be made with similar statistics for certain States or cities

of this country. Data collected for a number of communities in this country support the fact brought out in this table for Bermuda, that the small number of abnormal unions of whites and blacks is on the decrease in the United States as well as in the Bermudas. In Barbadoes the mixed element has shown a tendency to decrease; and since the white element is an unimportant factor in this island, the tendency toward a reversion of the population to the African type is well proven.

I can only briefly touch on the educational statistics of these islands. The four tables contain the most important data, and give the progress in education in Jamaica since 1861; the decrease of the proportion of persons who signed the marriage register with a mark for the period 1881-94; the same information for Trinidad, and the proportion of persons able to read and write in the Bahamas in 1891.

TABLE XXX. EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS OF JAMAICA.

PERSONS ABLE TO READ AND WRITE (OVER 5 YEARS OF AGE).

		Per Cent.	
	1861	31.3	
	1871	35.0	
	1881	45.7	
	1891	52.5	

TABLE XXXI. PERSONS SIGNING THE MARRIAGE REGISTER WITH A MARK.

		Per Cent of Total.	Per Cent of Males.	Per Cent of Females.
	1881	56.4	45.8	66.8
	1882	57.1	46.5	67.7
	1883	59.2	49.0	68.6
	1884	59.2	49.6	68.8
	1885	58.5	49.3	67.7
	1886	55.4	46.0	64.0
	1887	55.8	46.0	64.8
	1888	57.3	49.8	64.8
	1889	56.6	47.7	65.5
	1890	56.3	47.6	64.9
	1891	56.3	48.9	63.7
	1892	53.6	45.7	61.6
	1893	52.6	45.3	60.0
	1894	52.0	44.6	59.4

TABLE XXXII.

PERSONS SIGNING THE MARRIAGE REGISTER WITH A MARK. TRINIDAD, 1882-93.

	Per Cent of Total.		Per Cent of Total.
1882	56.0	1888	49.0
1883	48.6	1889	45.5
1884	47.4	1890	44.8
1885	55.0	1891	46.5
1886	56.9	1892	53.0
1887	42.3	1893	42.0

TABLE XXXIII.

PERSONS ABLE TO READ AND WRITE, BAHAMA ISLANDS, 1891.

Total population,	47,565
Able to read and write,	22,414
Per cent of total,	47.1

These tables are of especial value in connection with the tables of statistics of illegitimacy, since, as will be made plain if the two are compared, the educational progress of the population has been absolutely without effect on the prevailing immorality. It is shown in table XXXI that the proportion of illiterate women has decreased from 66.8 per cent in 1881 to 59.4 per cent in 1894, but at the same time the illegitimate rate has remained unaffected, if not been on the increase. It would thus seem as if the mere fact of mental instruction in the West Indies, as well as in our own capital city, did not suffice to encourage or promote a corresponding progress in morality. At the time of the emancipation of the negroes in the West Indies it was asserted, by individuals as well as by the Royal Commission on the affairs of the islands, that the moral progress of the emancipated blacks had been considerable, and that marriages were largely on the increase. The statistics of conjugal condition previously given in this paper prove that, on the contrary, the prevailing moral condition of the colored population of these islands is worse today than it could have possibly been in the past, and that, with the exception of the Bermudas, the tendency does not seem to be upward, but toward a still lower level of immorality and vice.

It has been my purpose in this paper to call the attention of the student of the condition and tendency of the negro in the United States to the valuable body of facts available in the statistical and historical records of the West Indies ; and out of a mass of material I have selected such facts as seemed to indicate certain tendencies of the population of these islands,—tendencies which, if rightly interpreted and understood, will be of value in a scientific study of the present-day condition and tendencies of the negro in the United States.